(a) whether Government is aware that there is no proper arrangement of catering facility and cleanliness at several airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of eatables and beverages sold at airports are much higher than that of such items sold at Railway stations and at other places;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for selling the food and drinking items at reasonable rates at the aerodromes so that people from every class of society can afford them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Proper arrangement of catering facilities in hygienic condition are made at all the operational airports by way of Restaurant, Snack Bars, Tea/ Coffee/ Cold Drink Vending machines. The airports are maintained in neat and clean conditions through regular employees / maintenance contracts. The periodical customer satisfaction surveys have been carried out to maintain proper standards.

(c) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been ensuring providing reasonably priced food and drinking items at Snack Bars and Kiosks to all categories of users at all airports. The price of the food items at all outlets have been approved by AAI and subsequently monitored.

Blending in Jet fuel

733. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Air New Zealand has successfully completed a two-hour flight of passenger jet powered in part by vegetable oil;

(b) if so, whether such technology would be imported or indigenously developed;

(c) whether initially one engine of the aeroplane can powered by a 50-50 blend of oil from jatropha plants and standard jet fuel; and

(d) whether the factor of environment sustainability would also be taken in account while evaluating the viability of such a fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A report on the matter come to the notice through media. However, no authentic report has been received from International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) or International Air Travellers Association (IATA).

(b) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration with the Ministry.

Air services from Gwalior

†734.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that adequate air services are not available in Madhya Pradesh which is an important State from tourism and historical point of view;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.